

VZCZCXRO9210

RR RUEHAG RUEHAST RUEHDA RUEHDBU RUEHDF RUEHFL RUEHIK RUEHKW RUEHLA

RUEHLM RUEHLZ RUEHPOD RUEHROV RUEHSR RUEHVK RUEHYG

DE RUEHAK #1561 1700944

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

R 190944Z JUN 07

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2648

INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC

RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC

RUEKJCS/Joint STAFF WASHDC//J-3/J-5//

RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

RUEUITH/ODC ANKARA TU

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

RUEUITH/TLO ANKARA TU

RUEHAK/USDAO ANKARA TU

UNCLAS ANKARA 001561

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH PRESIDENT ATTEMPTS TO BLOCK DIRECT
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION EFFORTS

REF: ANKARA 1539

¶1. (U) Turkey's president filed a petition with the Constitutional Court on June 18, asking the court to annul the constitutional amendment package that would move the country to direct presidential elections (reftel). The Court will combine Sezer's challenge, which is based on procedural defects in the way parliament adopted the package, with a similar challenge filed earlier by main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP). The two cases are under review and the Court is expected to hear the combined case next week. If the Court annuls the package, it will eliminate the need for a referendum on the amendments, now slated for October.

¶2. (U) Sezer also vetoed legislation that would have reduced from 120 to 45 days the waiting period required before holding a referendum on a constitutional amendment. Parliament adopted the change before recessing on June 3 in an effort to take the direct presidential election amendment to the people on July 22, the same day set for general elections. Sezer's veto effectively kills the measure.

Visit Ankara's Classified Web Site at
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/ankara/>

WILSON